



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FACT SHEET

# **MAYOR ANNOUNCES VOUCHERS THAT CUT COSTS FOR WATER-WISE APPLIANCES USED IN HOMES AND BUSINESSES**

### *Mayor Sanders Extends Water Conservation Push with Vouchers for High-Efficiency Washers, Restaurant Equipment and Plumbing Fixtures*

Mayor Jerry Sanders has teamed up with the San Diego County Water Authority to offer substantial rebates to San Diegans buying water-wise appliances for their homes or businesses. Promoting the rebate voucher program is part of the Mayor's continuing effort to increase water conservation efforts in the City.

"This is really a win-win opportunity for San Diegans and our water conservation efforts," said Mayor Sanders. "The vouchers offer quick savings on the cost of new water-wise appliances. Installing and using those appliances helps conserve water while cutting water bills too. That's a good deal for anyone joining the push for increased water conservation in our region," said the Mayor.

### **HIGH-EFFICIENCY CLOTHES WASHERS REDUCE WATER AND ENERGY USAGE**

San Diegans buying High-Efficiency Clothes Washers (HEW) can receive up to \$175 back on their purchase when they choose one of the many models approved by the County Water Authority. In addition to the rebate savings, HEW savings come from greatly reduced water consumption and lower monthly water bills.

Their benefits include:

- Up to 60% less water consumption than older models
- As much as 55% less energy used per load than standard top-loading machines.
- Cutting drying time in half.
- Using less detergent for each load.

The Voucher Program provides a point-of-purchase discount of \$175 off the cost of a new qualifying HEW. Only residential City of San Diego Water Department customers are eligible to

participate. The vouchers will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis since the supply is limited. Only one HEW per voucher and one voucher per dwelling unit will be issued.

The HEW must be from the approved list of high-efficiency models (list available at <http://www.sdcwa.org/manage/conservation.phtml>). Customers participating in the program agree to respond to a brief water conservation survey and allow for an on-site installation verification.

### **SAN DIEGO RESTAURANT OWNERS CAN EXPAND WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

Last October, Mayor Sanders was joined by the San Diego Chapter of the California Restaurant Association in launching a successful program aimed at raising awareness among diners and restaurant-owners about the need to conserve water.

Now Mayor Sanders is working with the San Diego County Water Authority to offer rebate vouchers for water-wise equipment for restaurants. The new program offers a price break for commonly used equipment including:

- **\$485 for each steamer compartment** purchased from the approved list available from the County Water Authority (A new three pan steamer can reduce annual water related expenses by an average of \$2,000 and energy expenses by \$3,000 per year making them great choices for any restaurant).
- **\$60 for each water efficient pre-rinse spray valve** purchased from the approved list (These new high pressure valves can cut water use by 50% and reduce cleaning times).
- **\$150 for each purchase of waterbrooms** included on the Water Authority's approved list (The high pressure brooms save 5 to 15 gallons per minute over older models and can cut cleaning times up to 75%).

### **LOW-FLOW TOILETS SAVE WATER AND MONEY WITH EVERY FLUSH**

Mayor Sanders is also encouraging all local businesses to take advantage of the Ultra Low-Flush Toilet (ULFT)/Urinal Voucher Incentive Program being offered by the City's Water Department. The ULFT program is intended to help reduce indoor water consumption by providing financial incentives for replacing high-volume flush toilets and urinals.

The following point-of-purchase vouchers are currently available:

- **\$75-\$200 for Ultra-Low-Flush-Toilets (ULFTs) and High-Efficiency Toilets (HETs)** for multi-family properties including apartments, condos, town homes, duplexes, triplexes, and mobile homes.
- **\$200-\$400 for urinals for commercial, industrial, and institutional properties.**

Toilet vouchers are only available when replacing fixtures that use 3.5 or more gallons per flush (gpf). New construction projects and bathroom additions do not qualify for a voucher, nor do properties built after 1994. The supply of vouchers is limited, and is distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Not all of the brands and models of toilets are eligible for a voucher. For an approved toilet list call the Voucher Incentive Program at 1-800-986-4538 or visit the Voucher Program's web page at <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/>.

For more information about the HEW Voucher Program, call the Voucher Processing Center at 1-800-986-4538 for more information. The Processing Center is open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The HEW, Restaurant Equipment and ULFT Voucher Programs are co-sponsored by the City of San Diego Water Department, the San Diego County Water Authority, its participating member agencies, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the California Department of Water Resources.

The City of San Diego offers a long list of services and resources for conserving water. Check the City's website at [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water) for more information about these and other water conservation opportunities.